

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
U.S. Forest Service
Coconino National Forest

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For Immediate Release

May 21, 2014

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Slide Fire: 7:15 a.m. update

Flagstaff, Ariz. – The Slide Fire is located in Oak Creek Canyon just north of Slide Rock State Park and burning northward, up the canyon.

A small 4 ½ acre fire, the Cookstove Fire, was reported late last night 2 miles northeast of the Slide Fire and is presumed to have started as a spot fire from the larger Slide Fire. Firefighters were able to create a line around the Cookstove Fire with a dozer at approximately 2 a.m.

A Type I Incident Management Team has been ordered and is expected to arrive at approximately 3 p.m.

Law Enforcement is seeking any information the public may have regarding the start of the Slide Fire and anyone of suspicion in the area yesterday between Slide Rock State Park and Half Way Picnic Area. The public should call Forest Service Law Enforcement at 928-527-3511 if they have any information that might assist law enforcement in the investigation.

Fire activity is slowing toward the north and now concentrating on moving up the steep canyon walls. Resources are stationed above and below the fire. Smoke is heavy through Oak Creek Canyon and creating very hazy conditions in Flagstaff. Smoke will likely continue to drift north and be noticeable along I-17 as motorists approach northern Arizona.

Information will be updated on Inciweb as it becomes available: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/3/>

Size: Approximately 400-450 acres

Containment: 0%

Location: Originated just north of Slide Rock State Park, approximately 4 to 5 miles north of Sedona.

Date Reported: Tuesday, May 20 at approximately 4 p.m.

Cause: Human caused, under investigation

Current Resources: Approximately 200 personnel including five hotshot crews, three helicopters, one air attack, 10 engines, two water tenders, Sedona Fire, a fuels crew and two dozers.

Ordered Resources: One Type 1 Incident Management Team, one air tanker en route, 15 hotshot crews, 10 Initial Attack crews, 40 engines and additional overhead personnel.

Closures: Highway 89A from Sedona to Fort Tuthill in Flagstaff. Forest Road 535 off Highway 89A. Power has been shut off by APS from Slide Rock, north through the canyon.

Evacuations: An approximate 2 to 3-mile stretch of area from Slide Rock State Park north toward the Sterling Springs Hatchery has been evacuated, as well as the East Pocket Forest Service Lookout Tower. Evacuees are being relocated to Sinagua Middle School in Flagstaff.

Structures Threatened: Approximately 100 structures are currently threatened north of Slide Rock State Park, which include private homes as well vacation resort cabins and a Forest Service Lookout tower.

Injuries: No injuries reported.

Note to the Media: A Media Staging Area is available, with excellent views of the fire at the Oak Creek Canyon Overlook. Directions are below...

Directions to the Overlook from Phoenix:

1. Take I-17 north to Exit 337 (Flagstaff Airport/89A Exit).
2. At the stop sign, turn West (left), go over the bridge to Highway 89A.
3. Turn South (left) on Highway 89A. DPS may have roadblocks at this point, but will allow media to pass through.
4. Travel approximately 8 to 9 miles south on Highway 89A until you reach the Overlook, which is just before the switchbacks that enter Oak Creek Canyon.
5. POC at Overlook for Media is Bill Morse: 928-699-4497.

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